

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 /064 W  
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R 221210Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5860

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

CINC USNAVEUR LONDON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01148

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, GW, MPOL

SUBJECT: FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR NATO FRIGATE FUNDING

1. SENIOR GERMAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAVE INDICATED THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE HIGHLY FAVORABLE THAT THE BUNDESTAG WILL APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AT LEAST SIX F-122 CLASS NATO FRIGATES. THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE MET ON JANUARY 21 TO CONSIDER THE FUNDING REQUEST, WITH THE HEARINGS LABELLED A SUCCESS BY OUR SOURCES. THE COMMITTEE IS NOT EXPECTED TO GRANT FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL JAN 28 .

2. THE FRIGATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN OPPOSED BY LEFT-WING SPD MEMBERS WHO ARGUED THAT (A) THE FRG NAVY HAD NO MISSION FOR SUCH SHIPS AND (B) THEY COST TOO MUCH. THESE PARLIAMENTARIANS ARGUED FURTHER THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE FRG TO PURCHASE FIVE

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BOEING HYDROFOILS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE FRIGATE.

3. COMMENT: FINAL APPROVAL OF THE FRIGATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WILL BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY GREETED BY GERMAN NAVAL OFFICERS. ONE SENIOR OFFICER TOLD US IT DID NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE HOW MANY SHIPS WERE INITIALLY AUTHORIZED, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO START THE PROGRAM. NEW REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FRIGATES COULD ALWAYS BE SUBMITTED LATER. DELIVERY OF THE FRIGATES TO THE FLEET IN THE 1980'S WILL ENABLE THE GERMAN NAVY TO EXPAND ITS MISSION IN THE NORTH SEA, SOMETHING WHICH THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN CONSTRAINED FROM DOING FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND EQUIPMENT REASONS. END COMMENT.

HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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